

Senior Corps Update

April 2000 Edition



An update of activities and information published monthly (except for January/February which are combined as one edition) by the National Senior Service Corps for the Senior Corps network and interested National Service colleagues

The National Senior Service Corps is part of the Corporation for National Service's network of programs which also includes AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America

National Senior Service Corps
Tom Endres, Director

***Senior Corps Conference
2000 is only 2 short
months away!***



***Latest News: Session Selection Underway!!
Don't Miss Out on Your First Choices!!
Read the Latest and Register for Your Sessions Today!!***

Session Selection Materials are in the Mail and on the Web!

- ❖ Session Selection Materials are on their way to registered conference attendees. The Session Selection Materials are used to review the workshops, networking sessions, and other meetings available during the Senior Corps conference. The Session Selection Form must be completed and returned to Senior Corps Headquarters to enroll attendees in their sessions. **The Session Selection form is due April 17, 2000.**
- ❖ Each attendee who has registered should receive session selection materials in hard copy in the mail by the week of April 14th. If an interested party (Project Directors, Sponsor staff, CNS, etc.) has not yet registered, please call Delly at 202-606-5000 x386 to register right away.
- ❖ Participants must select workshops and networking sessions in advance. Every effort will be made to accommodate the workshop preferences of Project Directors, but space limitations will make that impossible in some cases. Therefore, in order to have a better chance of attending first choice sessions, Project Directors are encouraged to send in the Completed Session Selection Form as soon as possible. **(fax # 202-565-2743)**

Accessing the Session Selection Materials on the Web:

- ❖ Conference attendees can download a copy of the Session Selection Booklet and Session Selection Form from the Corporation's web site at the following address:
<http://www.seniorcorps.org/>
- ❖ Session Selection forms may be faxed to 202-565-2743 or e-mailed to
NSSC2000Conference@cns.gov
- ❖ Questions? Contact Conference Information: e-mail: NSSC2000Conference@cns.gov or by telephone: 202-606-5000 x190

Materials Display Room space still available -- Starting on the evening of Wednesday, June 21, 2000, and continuing through Friday, June 23, 2000, tables will be available for resource materials that Project Directors would like to share with all conference attendees. **It will not be possible to sell materials or items at the conference, however order forms of items may be distributed.** If your group or project is interested in having a table to display project materials, please fax or e-mail the following information to Jennifer Dean at 202-565-2743 or NSSC2000Conference@cns.gov by **May 1, 2000**:

- Contact person, phone number, e-mail address, fax number and mailing address
- Project name and sponsor name
- Estimated space needed for materials (choose between the following)
 - ✓ One 10 foot rectangular table
 - ✓ Two 10 foot rectangular tables
 - ✓ Power source or other needs (equipment such as computers are not provided)

Also, we will have some tables in the materials room devoted to "materials swap." Project Directors are welcome to bring sample brochures and information developed and used by their projects to share with other Directors.

Special Meetings/Networking Sessions -- On Friday, June 23, 2000, from 3-5PM, space will be set aside for Special Meetings and Special Networking Sessions. If you are interested in using the existing space for a meeting/networking session, please contact Jennifer or Delly at 202-606-5000 extension 190 or NSSC2000Conference@cns.gov with the details. Although it is no longer possible to advertise the meeting/networking session in the Session Selection Materials, we will be able to add it to the final conference program, which will be given to attendees at the conference.

About New Project Director Training – The session selection booklet will list several sessions appropriate for new project directors. Also, on Friday, June 23, 2000, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, there will be a special session for new project directors.

Reminder About Hotel Accommodations

- If you are planning to attend the National Community Service Conference, June 24-28, 2000, please tell the hotel operators at the Marriott World Center that you are attending both conferences.
- Housing registration forms for the June 22-23 Conference at the Marriott Orlando World Center were sent to all Project Directors. The forms are postage paid and addressed to the hotel.
- The hotel room registration forms are due to the Marriott by **May 22, 2000**. Any questions regarding the Hotel or the Housing form can be made directly to the hotel. (800-621- 0638).
- If you are sharing a sleeping room with another Senior Corps project director, please inform the hotel on your mail-in card or by telephone.

**Questions?
Senior Corps
Conference Information
Line:
202.606.5000
extension 190
or e-mail:**

NSSC2000Conference@cns.gov

Conference Registration Continues:

- Conference Registration Forms were mailed to Senior Corps project directors in January. If you have not done so already, please complete all sections of the form and return to the address listed in the instructions.
- Schedule reminder: The Senior Corps Conference will officially begin with the 8:30 AM Opening Plenary on Thursday June 22nd and will end at 9:00 PM Friday, June 23, after the dinner.
- The information line for the National and Community Service Conference, co-sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, the Corporation for National Service and America's Promise is: **202-729-8101**. There is also information available online at www.pointsoflight.org

New Operations Handbooks for FGP, SCP and RSVP: Status

It is expected that the new Operations Handbooks will be printed
and mailed directly to Sponsors in
late May or early June.

Other Senior Corps News and Updates:

News from Congressional Affairs –

Appropriations -- The House Labor-HHS appropriations hearing was held last Thursday, March 30th. The hearing went well with questions being asked about both the Senior Corps and AmeriCorps*VISTA programs. The Labor-HHS bill funds AmeriCorps*VISTA and the Senior Corps. The Senate does not traditionally hold a Labor-HHS hearing. The House VA-HUD Subcommittee hearing was held on Tuesday, February 29, 2000. There was acknowledgement from both sides of the aisle that the Corporation has made progress on management challenges and has built stronger bipartisan support for its programs. The VA-HUD bill funds most of AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. The Senate VA-HUD Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2000.

Reauthorization – The *National and Community Service Amendments Act* gained two additional Senate Republican cosponsors this week when both Senators Jeffords and Collins agreed to join. The cosponsor total on the House side is nearing 80 with Representative Kind (D, Wisconsin) cosponsoring this week. Supporters of service on Capitol Hill are currently strategizing on the introduction date of the *National and Community Service Amendments Act*. Meetings are continuing with Members of Congress to educate them about our programs and invite them to conduct site visits.

New Income Eligibility Guidelines for the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs

– The April 3, 2000 Federal Register contained guidelines that are effective as of March 31, 2000. A text copy of these Guidelines is included with this edition of the Update as **Attachment 1** and will soon appear on the Corporation for National Service web site. Additionally, the Guidelines can be downloaded directly from the Federal Register at the following address:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&docid=00-8188-filed

Highlighting Seniors and Accomplishments – On March 30th, the White House released a paper entitled “*President Clinton and Vice-President Gore: Working to Protect Senior Citizens.*” The National Senior Service Corps programs were featured under the section “Strengthening Supportive Services and Opportunity” as a vehicle for giving seniors the opportunity to serve. The complete document includes highlights about Long-Term Financial Security; Medicare; Health Care Improvements; Safer Communities; and Including Seniors. A copy of the document can be found online at the following: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Accomplishments/index.html>

A National RSVP Task Group has been formed to make recommendations aimed at solving critical issues identified in the Westat Descriptive Study of RSVP conducted in 1996 and clarified by the cluster focus group meetings that followed the study in 1998.

The Task Group is co-chaired by Peg McCarthy, a former RSVP Director, as well as Gary Kowalczyk, Director, Planning and Program Integration, and Tom Endres, Director, National Senior Service Corps, of the Corporation. The composition of the task group is a diverse group of project directors, sponsors, Corporation field staff, and others committed to RSVP's continuing success and its operational efficiency and effectiveness. The Task Group meets for approximately two hours every two weeks by phone. Four issue area Work Groups have been formed: Identity Crisis, Mission Clarification, Inadequate Resources, and Management Saturation. Please feel free to share with them your thoughts and ideas related to these issues. Following is contact information for the members of each of the work groups.

Identity Crisis Group

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National Organizations Partnership Meeting – Corporation CEO **Harris Wofford** and Senior Corp Director **Tom Endres** met with the CEOs of seven national organizations who are a part of the Senior Corps National Organization Initiative. Participating organizations were: Big Brothers Big Sisters of America; Catholic Charities USA; Generations United; Habitat for Humanity; Lutheran Services in America; Points of Light Foundation; and, Save the Children Federation.

Harris noted that all of the national organizations participating in the initiative have found creative ways to encourage their affiliates to promote senior volunteers as a resource. **Marc Freedman** of Civic Ventures shared information from a survey conducted by Peter Hart Associates, reflecting that older people are demanding a more vital and engaged role in American life. The group discussed strategies for promoting senior service within their own networks and for reaching out to new partners. All agreed to the need for a continuing dialog with all participants to promote seniors as a resource.

Lutheran Services in America Award for Excellence in Senior Volunteerism

Lutheran Services in America (LSA), a partner with the Senior Corps in the National Organization Initiative, provided an Award for Excellence in Senior Volunteerism at their 2000 Conference held in Cleveland on March 29 to April 1. The award was established to recognize the LSA affiliates that best exemplify the engagement of senior volunteers to meet their strategic objectives.

All of the twenty-six nominees were recognized at the closing banquet and received a certificate of recognition for their efforts. The Award for Excellence was presented by Joanne Negstad, President/CEO of LSA and John Keller of Senior Corps to Lutheran Social Services of the Miami Valley, Dayton, Ohio. A ten-minute video was produced on the senior volunteer activities of the award winner and was shown at the banquet.

Senior Corps Policy Corner -- Senior Corps Headquarters is asked periodically, to interpret or clarify certain provisions of program policy and regulations. We use the ***Policy Corner*** to share them with you in a Question and Answer format. If Corporation State Offices have questions on the responses given, please contact **John Keller at (202) 606-5000, ext. 285**. Projects with questions regarding any policy or regulatory requirement should always contact their Corporation State Office for assistance.

April Policy Corner Issue: Fee For Service

Question:

Is it appropriate for sponsors or volunteer stations to receive compensation for the services of Senior Corps volunteers?

Answer:

No, it is not appropriate for sponsors or volunteer stations to receive compensation for the services of Senior Corps volunteers. Also, recipients of the service may not be asked to contribute to the cost of the services provided by senior volunteers.

Technology Spotlight

Sign up for NSSCTALK – Join the list serv and gain access to the latest news first! Also, find lively discussions, questions and answers from peers, and good ideas for success.

Subscribers may easily control their subscription settings either by sending traditional email commands or through a Web interface, both of which were outlined in a welcome message.

Angela Roberts with the Senior Corps remains the Corporation's liaison for the list serv.

Share Your Ideas for a Technology Resource Guide

Senior Corps has started work on a Technology Resource Guide that will be distributed at the 2000 National Conference for all project directors to take home and use. We want this guide to contain the types of information that is most helpful to and needed by Senior Corps project directors.

Topics include:

- Computer basics: Understanding your PC, Operating System, Applications Software, and Utilities
- Internet basics: Browsers, search engines, bookmarks, tools and tips
- Software how-to's: Commonly used features and shortcuts, step by step
- Security: Staying safe, protecting your data online
- Hot picks: Web sites, books and resources

If you have suggestions about other topics, interests, or have ideas about what you would like to see included, please e-mail them to **Angela Roberts**, Senior Corps, at aroberts@cns.gov

Seniors using computers to serve others in the community: Your examples needed!

Does your Senior Corps project have volunteers using technology as a key part of their service? Examples might be: training other seniors in community learning labs, helping to hook up schools and isolated adults to the Internet, serving children in schools using technology tools. If so, please e-mail your examples to Angela Roberts, Senior Corps, at aroberts@cns.gov

TTA Talk features Favorite Literacy Resources of LEARNS/NWREL and Seniors for Schools

Recently, members of the Corporation's Training and Technical Assistance Office asked the Learns Partners and Seniors for Schools a few questions about literacy resources. Here are their answers:

Question: "What good hot off the press literacy/tutoring/mentoring resources are out there right now?"

LEARNS Partners said:

The Tutoring Handbook from the Seattle Reads Tutoring Compact is about six months new. The following web sites review and/or present new resources:

<http://www.mentoring.org>

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/YesYouCan/>

Question: "Name two or three of your favorite all around literacy program resources."

LEARNS Partners said:

Lester L. Laminack. *Volunteers Working with Young Readers*. National Council of Teachers of English, 1996.

Gay Su Pinnell and Irene C. Fountas. *Help America Read*, Heinemann, 1997.

Note: *Help America Read: A Handbook for Volunteers* and *Help America Read: Coordinator's Guide* are available for loan from the Corporation's National Service Resource Center managed by ETR Associates, Inc. Call 1-800-860-

Contact information for Zac Mutrux
NSSCTALK List Serv Administrator
Zachary Mutrux
Webmaster/Database Specialist
National Service Resource Center;
ETR Associates
zacm@etr.org
<http://www.etr.org/nsrc>
800-860-2684 x.130
ICQ: 21990620
AIM: NSRC TA

2684 to learn how to borrow this resource or go to the NSRC web site at www.etr.org/nsrc.
 Barbara J. Walker and Lesley Mandel Morrow. *The Reading Team: A Handbook for Volunteer Tutors K-3* and *Tips for the Reading Team: Strategies for Tutors*, International Reading Association, 1997 and 1998. Note: *The Reading Team* books are available through the International Reading Association's on-line bookstore at www.reading.org/publications/

Seniors for Schools projects said:

On the Road to Reading

Note: This "how to start up a tutoring program" publication was developed by the Corporation for National Service, U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is available free in hard or soft copy through the National Service Resource Center (NSRC) at www.etr.org/nsrc or 1-800-860-2684.

Barbara Wasik

Note: Dr Wasik is at the Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. Her email address is bwasik@csos.jhu.edu

University of Virginia, McGuffey Reading Center, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Note: The Book Buddies program was developed by Drs. Marcia Invernizzi and Connie Juel of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, in partnership with Charlottesville public schools. See www.ciera.org

Do you have something to add to this? Send to: Send Margie Legowski, Education Sector Specialist, CNs, mlegowsk@cns.gov or telephone 202-606-5000, ext. 457.

Funding Successes for Senior Corps Projects

Colorado – Boulder RSVP received a **\$1,100** grant from the Community Foundation under the Community Action Program's "Citizenship Project".

Massachusetts – Mystic Valley Elder Services RSVP in Malden received an **\$11,000** grant from the Campbell foundation to support child literacy efforts and projects. RSVP is expanding its America Reads initiatives from 5 elementary schools to 10, and Polaroid Corporation of Cambridge recently signed on as a corporate reading partner.

Pennsylvania – RSVP of Montgomery County received a **\$100,000** grant from Warren-Musser Foundation. The project will use the funds to ensure sustainability and future programming.

Texas – Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission RSVP and FGP in Beaumont received a **\$1,500** grant from the Port Arthur Service League to support Child Immunization activities and volunteer mileage reimbursement.

Wyoming – The Wyoming legislature approved **\$320,000** for the biennium, July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2002 to expand SCP in eight additional counties, which will mean that all Wyoming counties will have SCP services. Additionally, the Wyoming Division on Aging increased state SCP funds from \$35,000 to \$55,000 for the period of July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001. In total, the state annual support to SCP is \$215,000.

Total Non-Corporation Funding Reported This Month: \$ 433,600

Kudos to Senior Corps Colleagues and Volunteers Recognized for Excellence!

Colorado – **Denver RSVP** volunteer **Bruce Borman** was named Volunteer of the Year at Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. Mr. Borman helps smooth museum operations through a variety of tasks and duties, including scheduling tours and helping with questions at the admissions desk.

Minnesota

Five RSVP volunteers serving in the **West Central Minnesota RSVP** were selected as honorees at the annual “Partners in Literacy” conference of the Minnesota Literacy Council. All volunteer as literacy tutors with the Alexandria, MN Literacy Program. Congratulations to **Vera Anderson, Emily Elliot, Sandy Bogenrief, Elaine Carlson, and Mary Olson**. The literacy tutors are matched one-on-one with learners for tutoring, English as a second language, GED preparation, or computer skills training.

Virginia Peterson, a volunteer with the **Carlton/Aikin Counties RSVP**, was one of twelve older volunteers who traveled to Washington, DC to receive an award from the Administration on Aging. Assistant Secretary for Aging presented the awards for Outstanding Senior Volunteers, which recognize the contributions of 12 older Americans who represent thousands of dedicated volunteers serving in local communities on a daily basis to help protect the integrity of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. As an RSVP volunteer, Ms. Peterson devotes most of her service to the Health Insurance Counseling Assistance Program, helping other seniors through the maze of senior health and benefit programs.

Nebraska

Sheridan County RSVP, sponsored by the Sheridan County Commission, was named as a recipient of the Knights of AK-SAR-BEN “Ike Friedman Community Leaders 2000 Award”. The award recognizes the leadership, humanitarian concern and community involvement of senior volunteers. In addition to the award, the project received a check for \$1,000.

Donna Brown, project director of **Crawford RSVP**, was named to the nationwide “Who’s Who” for the year 2000-2001.

Texas – Double kudos to **Tarrant County RSVP** in Fort Worth. First, RSVP volunteer **Phil Porter** was named United Way Senior Volunteer of the Year. He is a full-time volunteer at an alternative high school in the Arlington Independent School District, serving as mentor to at-risk adolescents. He generally serves at least 30 hours each week. Second, RSVP Director **Deborah Evans-Young** was selected to receive the United Way Wanda Pyburn Professional Award as Outstanding Director of Volunteers.

National Senior Service Corps --- Getting Things Done

Focus on Technology

Minnesota - Douglas County RSVP volunteer **Dick Summons** serves as volunteer instructor for the computer learning lab, and the lead teacher with computers for blind persons. Mr. Summons, himself blind most of his adulthood, helps others to use two new computers loaded with special software and Braille printers. Several other RSVP volunteers also serve as lab assistants.

Utah -- The Emery County RSVP and Community Development Initiative joined together in a pilot project to provide computers for children who do not have access to one, in exchange for community service. Students in San Rafael Elementary School were selected to participate. Students from Ferron Junior High School will tutor the elementary students in math and reading. Both the tutors and the tutees are eligible to receive a donated computer and printer when twenty hours of service is completed. Parents of each student must also agree to perform service. Computers and printers have been donated by Emery County, Emery Aging Services, and Wells Fargo and from private individuals. A total of sixteen students are participating. Three RSVP volunteers are assisting with the supervision of the tutoring sessions.

Child Safety, Building Houses, Helping Hospitals, and Being Good Neighbors

Indiana – Four volunteers from the **Fort Wayne RSVP** project are serving with the Safe Kids Program of Allen County's "Safe Sitting" program. The volunteers were trained to install new car seats,. The Safe Kids program intends to install four new car seats per week with parents referred by a local social service agency. Other partners include local law enforcement, hospitals, and social service agencies. To date, 74 car seats have been installed.

Minnesota -- Two Minnesota RSVP projects report more successes in their partnership with Habitat for Humanity. **Duluth RSVP** reports that ten city buses now sport a Habitat-RSVP recruiting message banner. The three RSVP leaders, along with the AmeriCorps*VISTA member, are assisting with recruitment, with great success, and production of homes is scheduled to double in 2000. The **Mankato Area RSVP** reports a total of 33 RSVP volunteers involved, and 17 are brand new to RSVP as a result of their interest in working on the Habitat project. The project also produced a compelling video.

Oklahoma – Love County RSVP is a good example of how RSVP projects all across Oklahoma help small rural hospitals. In Love County, the Pink Ladies Auxiliary purchases needed equipment and supplies through funds generated in the gift shop, which is entirely operated by RSVP volunteers. Recently, the hospital received a new "Asysm" machine used for early detection of heart attacks, that will also make it possible for the hospital lab to do thyroid testing locally. Each year, the Auxiliary provides \$2,000 or more to the hospital for needed equipment and supplies. Also from Oklahoma, **Big Five RSVP** continued its efforts to provide fans to low-income, elderly citizens in Love, Carter, Bryan, Coal, and Pontotac Counties. Honeywell Consumer Products donated 5,000 Duracraft fans that were distributed through community action agencies, and in many cases, in partnership with Senior Corps projects statewide.

Resources

Learn More About Senior Corps Project Activities -- Corporation staff, Senior Corps project directors and other interested parties can receive upon request copies of issue lists -- information about what Senior Corps projects are doing in a particular service area, organized alphabetically by state. These lists are considered ongoing works-in-progress and are not necessarily comprehensive. They include information about projects gleaned from state office's weekly reports and from projects themselves.

Issue li

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. America Reads | 7. Public Safety | 13. Respite for Caregivers |
| 2. Community Development | 8. Mentoring | 14. Housing/Homelessness |
| 3. Environment | 9. Technology | 15. Independent Living |
| 4. Non-federal Funding | 10. Child Care | 16. Nutrition and Hunger |
| 5. Collaboration | 11. Unified State Plans | 17. Health |
| 6. Disaster Relief | 12. Intergenerational Projects | |

To receive copies of any list, please contact **Gloria Godwin**, (202) 606-5000 extension 189 or e-mail ggodwin@cns.gov

Funding and Resource Development Resources:***Funding Across the Ages: A Tool Kit.*** This concise, user-friendly 38-page booklet from Grantmakers in Aging (GIA) is designed to help grantmakers understand aging trends and the opportunities created and will also be useful to grant seekers in developing proposals. Chapters include an overview of aging trends; concepts, steps, and resources for developing a grantmaking relationship; specific program areas: Intergenerational Programs, Education, Neighborhood Involvement, and Health; and resource information and materials. Relevant information may be freely copied. GIA is an educational nonprofit membership organization for staff and trustees of foundations and corporations concerned with aging. For information contact GIA, P.O. Box 5534, New York, NY 10185-5534, Tel: 212-877-2050.

Senior Corps Update is dispatched by e-mail to Corporation State Offices on the first Friday of each month. Please continue to share with Senior Corps Project Directors and other colleagues. **Editor:** Angela Roberts, National Senior Service Corps., **202-606-5000 ext. 111** or e-mail to aroberts@cns.gov. ***Comments, ideas and suggestions welcome !***